(b) if so, at what rates gas is being sold to these sectors;

(c) whether Government has formulated a proposal to increase this price; and

(d) if so, what is the proposed hike in the price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) GAIL (India) Limited supplies natural gas to fertilizers sector for use as fuel and feedstock.

(b) Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) gas is sold at Rs. 3200 per Thousand Standard Cubic Metres (MSCM) out side the North-East and at Rs. 1920/MSCM in the North-East. Apart from that gas from other sources is supplied at market rate.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Strategic crude oil reserve

584. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently taken a decision to build up a strategic crude oil reserve of 5 million metric tonnes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total investment likely to be made for the purpose;

(c) whether Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) will fund for building strategic crude oil reserves; and

(d) if so, the time by which such strategic crude oil reserves would be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government has decided in September, 2005 to set up strategic storage of crude oil of 5 MMT capacity at 3 locations *viz.* Vizag (1.0 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur, Udipi (2.5 MMT). The estimated capital cost (as per September, 2005 prices) was Rs. 2397 crores and the crude filling cost Rs. 8870 crores (based on the then crude price of $ 55 per barrel).

(c) Yes, Sir. OIDB will finance the cost of building the strategic storage. To meet the cost of crude, the Government could consider a temporary increase in the cess on domestic crude and/or customs duty on imported crude, if necessary.

(d) The completion targets for estalishing the strategic crude oil reserves are mentioned below:

Visakhapatnam	:	January 31, 2011
Mangalore	:	July 15, 2011
Padur	:	December 31, 2011

*MMT denotes Million Metric Tonnes

LPG connections in Rajasthan

585. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any waiting list of subscribers intending to have LPG connections in Rajasthan;